

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 H-03 NSC-10 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SCI-06 ACDA-19 NASA-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1426

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5058

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN PFOR

SUBJ: OUTER SPACE: CHINESE MEMBERSHIP IN THE

OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE AND ITS ENLARGEMENT

REFS: (A) USUN 4435

(B) USUN 5005

(C) USUN 5007

(D) USUN 5022

1. A NUMBER OF OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAVE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE PRC EVENTUALLY WOULD JOIN THE COMMITTEE IN THE TWO YEARS SINCE THE PRC TOOK UP REPRESENTATION IN THE UN. OSC CHAIRMAN JANKOWITSCH (AUSTRIA) HAS PURSUED THE MATTER AND REPORTS THAT, AS OF NOW, CHINESE MISSION HERE IS MERELY SAYING PEKING HAS NOT YET DETERMINED ITS VIEW.

2. THE OSC IS A CURIOUS UN BODY. ITS COMPOSITION WAS DETERMINED IN THE FALL OF 1961 AS A RESULT OF US-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH EXPLAINS THAT AMONGST ITS 28 MEMBERS ARE 9 WEOS AND 88 EES, AND THAT SOME 14 OF THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF 28 ARE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. ACTIVE US AND SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMITTEE, ITS MEMBERSHIP, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND THE COMMITTEE'S CONSENSUS PROCEDURE -- NO VOTE

HAVING BEEN TAKEN FOR A DECADE, EVEN ON PROCEDURAL MATTERS -- ARE IMPORTANT FACTORS IN ACCOUNTING FOR THE OSC'S SOLID WORK PRODUCT WHICH INCLUDES THE 1966 OUTER SPACE TREATY, 1967 ASTRONAUT ASSISTANCE AND RETURN AGREEMENT, 1971 OUTER SPACE LIABILITY CONVENTION, ONGOING STUDIES UNDERTAKEN BY TWO WORKING GROUPS ON DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITES AND EARTH RESOURCE SURVEYING BY SATELLITE, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT IN THE UN SECRETARIAT OF A USEFUL OFFICE OF AN EXPERT ON PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY TO ASSIST THE GREAT MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES IN ACHIEVING SOME REALISTIC APPRAISALS OF BENEFITS AND COSTS OF SPACE ACTIVITIES.

3. US AND SOVIET POSITIONS ON OSC ENLARGEMENT HAVE DIFFERED WITH RESPECT TO CHINA. WE HAVE TAKEN THE VIEW THAT CHINESE MEMBERSHIP IS DESIRABLE NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT BE OCCASIONED IN EARLY DAYS OF SUCH MEMBERSHIP; SOVIETS HAVE BEEN SILENT. BOTH US AND USSR, HOWEVER, HAVE IN THE PAST STRONGLY OPPOSED "GENERAL ENLARGEMENT" FOR THE REASON THAT THE COMMITTEE'S ABILITY TO PERFORM USEFUL WORK WITHIN REASONABLE TIME FRAMES AND WITH APPROPRIATE EXPENDITURE OF HUMAN RESOURCES COULD BE DIMINISHED SIGNIFICANTLY. IN FACT, AGITATION BY NON-MEMBERS TO JOIN UP HAS NOT HITHERTO BEEN GREAT. HOWEVER, AS REFTELS NOTE, AMB. JANKOWITSCH HAS IN RECENT MONTHS RECEIVED "ACTIVE" STATEMENTS OF INTEREST IN MEMBERSHIP BY FRG, NETHERLANDS, TURKEY, PAKISTAN, INDONESIA; EARLIER, SOME INTEREST ON PART OF COLOMBIA AND URUGUAY WAS REPORTED BY LA MEMBERS. AS AUSTRIANS PERCEIVE IT, PROBLEM IS HOW TO OBTAIN CHINESE MEMBERSHIP ACCOMPANIED BY LIMITED EXPANSION IN OTHER AREAS, ALL TO THE RESULT THAT PRESENT 28-MEMBER OSC SHOULD BE EXPANDED, AT MOST, TO NO MORE THAN 35.

4. ROOM FOR ADDITIONAL WEOS IS ALMOST NON-EXISTENT GIVEN WEO MEMBERSHIP OF 9 OUT OF 28. (WEO'S CONSIST OF US, CANADA, UK, FRANCE, SWEDEN, BELGIUM, ITALY, AUSTRIA & AUSTRALIA; EE'S CONSIST OF USSR, POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, BULGARIA, MONGOLIA, ROMANIA
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& ALBANIA, ALBANIA BEING TRADITIONALLY INACTIVE.) ASIANS HAVE 4 CONSISTING OF JAPAN, IRAN, LEBANON AND INDIA; WITH PC, ASIAN MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE 5. AFRICAN PARTICIPATION CONSISTS OF ONLY 4 OF 28, NAMELY EGYPT, MOROCCO, SIERRA LEONE AND CHAD, OF WHICH EGYPT AND SIERRA LEONE HAVE PLAYED ACTIVE AND USEFUL ROLES. LA MEMBERSHIP CONSISTS OF MEXICO, BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA, ALL ACTIVE AND OFTEN DIFFICULT.

5. THE CURRENT OSC REPORT WILL BE BEFORE GA FIRST COMMITTEE DURING 5-11 DEC PERIOD; IT CONTAINS AT PARA 67 A SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION OF THE ENLARGEMENT QUESTION AT THE SUMMER 1973 OSC SESSION THAT REVEALS NO LINES OF AGREEMENT. AUSTRIANS ARE CONCERNED THAT CURRENT SITUATION IS LIKELY TO LEAD TO WORST POSSIBLE RESULT, I.E. 6 OR 7 COUNTRIES WISHING TO JOIN OSC WILL INSIST ON DOING SO, CHINA WILL CONTINUE TO TEMPORIZE, PROPOSALS FOR MEMBERSHIP FROM WEO'S AND ASIANS WILL STIMULATE CANDIDACIES FROM OTHER AREAS AND RESULTING OSC ENLARGEMENT OF AS MANY AS 15 OR 20 WOULD PRODUCE CONSEQUENT DISADVANTAGES TO THE COMMITTEE'S WORK PROSPECTS AND OFTEN PARALLEL US-SOVIET INTEREST IN USING THE OSC AS THE PRINCIPAL MULTILATERAL FORUM FOR COOPERATION IN SPACE AND SPACE-RELATED ACTIVITIES. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AUSTRIANS PROPOSED (PARA 23, REFTEL (C)) THAT GA SHOULD INSTRUCT OSC "TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY AND FORMULATE CURRENT PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE AND REPORT TO THE GA AT ITS 29TH SESSION NEXT AUTUMN." TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE OBJECTIVES AND PRESSURES, WE THINK THE AUSTRIAN PROPOSAL MERITS SUPPORT. AS NOTED, OSC DOES BUSINESS ONLY BY CONSENSUS AND US ABILITY TO SHAPE ANY ENLARGEMENT RECOMMENDATION THERE IS THUS FAR GREATER THAN IN GA. CONSEQUENTLY, UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, WE WOULD SUPPORT AUSTRIAN NOTION AT INFORMAL OSC CONSULTATIONS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE 5:30 PM 26 NOV.

6. FOR THE MOMENT USUN HAS NOT BEEN APPROACHED BY REPS OF COUNTRIES WISHING TO JOIN OSC; THESE SEEM TO HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS ONLY TO THE AUSTRIANS. BENNETT

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